in the sugar mills of Gujarat; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken to get them released and to ensure that they get at least the minimum wages fixed for them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A SANGMA): (a) and (b) Information is being collected from the Gujarat Government and will be laid on the Table of the House on its receipt.

[illegible] of Panchmarhi and Amarkantak as Tourist Centres

461. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to develop Panchmarhi and Amarkantak in Madhya Pradesh as centres of tourist attraction;

(b) if so, what are the plans for their development; and

(c) what financial assistance is likely to be given to the State Government for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (MUFTI MOHD. SAYEED): (a) to (c) The Central Ministry of Tourism gives financial assistance to States on the basis of proposals received from the State Governments. The Ministry has not received any proposal from the Government of Madhya Pradesh for development of Panchmarhi and Amarkantak. However, a Yatrika has been constructed at Amarkantak by the Bhartiya Yatri Avas Vikas Samiti.

Setting up of National Environment Protection Authority

462. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration to set up a National Environment Protection Authority (NEPA) in the country.

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be set up; and

(c) to what extent the Authority will be able to implement environmental protection laws effectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) to (c) A proposal to set up an Environment Protection Authority is under consideration of the Government. Details of the proposed authority are being worked out.

Opening of new spinning units in Gujarat

463. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, as per the present policy, new spinning units are not allowed in Gujarat in the districts other than class 'A' backward districts; if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is a fact that Dang is the only Class 'A' backward district in Gujarat and that no such industry is possible in Dang district as this is a totally forest district;

(c) whether it is a fact that during 1982-84, 232 new spinning units were allowed in the country and that